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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/893,599 | 06/29/2001 | Marcos Nogueira Novaes | YOR920010318US1 | 6500 |
| 21254 | 7590 | 04/08/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| MCGINN & GIBB, PLLC 8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD SUITE 200 VIENNA, VA 22182-3817 | | | SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A | |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | 2154 | | H |
| DATE MAILED: 04/08/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/893,599 | NOVAES, MARCOS NOGUEIRA | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Mohammad A Siddiqi | 2154 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-36 are presented for the examination

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-5, 18-22, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Egger et al. (6,233,571) (hereinafter Egger).

4. As per claims 1 and 34, Egger discloses a collaborative Web research method, comprising (col 48, lines 20-45):

organizing a plurality of documents (col 12, lines 40-45) in a N-dimensional space (col 18, lines 32-40) according to a collection of subject word (col 5, lines 45-48); and

based on said organizing (col 12, lines 40-45), retrieving (col 5, lines 49-51), by a user (col 5, lines 55-58, and col 6, lines 25-27), said documents organized (col 12, lines 40-45) in said N-dimensional space (col 18, lines 32-40) according to said collection of subject words (col 16, lines 4-12).

5. As per claims 2 and 19, Egger discloses detecting that a researcher is retrieving documents which are considered related (col 5, lines 45-48) according to a distance function (col 16, lines 4-48).

6. As per claims 3 and 20, Egger discloses enabling said user to find other researchers which are researching in a same research area (fig 5B, col 28, lines 46-67).

7. As per claims 4 and 21, Egger discloses enabling said user to find said researcher which is researching in a same research area (col 35, lines 36-41).

8. As per claims 5 and 22, Egger discloses wherein said distance function is expressed as an equation:

$$S(P1, P2) = D(P1, P2) - T(p1, p2)$$

where S is a non-Euclidean distance of two points p1 and p2 in hyperspace, and D is a Euclidean distance between the point p1 and the point p2, given by

$D(P1, P2) = \text{Square root of } (Sd(P1d - P2d))^2$

wherein T is a Trail estimate between the point p1 and the point p2, wherein the estimate S is used in a collaborative Web portal to estimate a closeness between first and second users (col 18, lines 32-45).

9. As per claim 18 Egger discloses, a collaborative Web portal, comprising:

a tracker for tracking a user's bookmarks in accessing pages in a network (col 47, lines 37-57, bookmark is an area of interest relevant document), and for tracking preferences of said user;

a unit for determining a closeness (col 50, lines 24-27), in research between users (col 50, lines 4-27); and

a notifier for notifying (col 50, lines 28-49, displaying information is way of notifying to the user), based on said closeness (col 50, lines 24-27), at least one other user of said user's bookmarks (col 47, lines 37-57, bookmark is an area of interest relevant document), said at least one other user having a similar interest to that of said user based on a distance function (col 47, lines 46-67 and col 16, lines 4-48).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 6-17, 23-33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egger et al. (6,233,571) (hereinafter Egger) in view of Anupam et al. (5,991,796) (hereinafter Anupam).

12. As per claims 6, 23, and 36, Egger discloses a Web-based collaborative research method (col 48, lines 20-45), comprising:

determining coordinates for pages (col 6, lines 6-25) which are retrieved by a first user and mapping the coordinates (col 28, lines 2-5) into a space (col 6, lines 6-50); and

based on said coordinates (col 36, lines 18-40) of said pages (col 48, lines 19-45), closeness of a research (col 48, lines 63-67 and col 5, lines 38-48).

Egger is silent about informing a second user by first user.

However, Anupam discloses informing a second user by first user (fig

1, col 1, lines 46-67 and col 2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Anupam with Egger because it would provide user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

13. As per claims 7 and 24, Egger is silent about the said informing is performed automatically by a server, said first and second users being informed of pages retrieved by one another.

However, Anupam discloses informing is performed automatically by a server, said first and second users being informed of pages retrieved by one another (fig 1, col 2, lines 25-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Anupam with Egger because it would provide user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

14. As per claims 8 and 25, Egger discloses wherein an intersection of research by said first and second users is graphically displayed to said first and second users (col 5, lines 37-48).

15. AS per claims 9 and 26, Egger discloses providing the first user with a trail of research of said second user (col 35, lines 25-36).

16. As per claims 10 and 27, Egger discloses trail of research comprises a predetermined sequence of bookmarks leading said first user to a specific point in cyberspace (col 48, lines 46-48).

17. As per claims 11 and 28, Egger discloses a collaborative logging-in (fig 4B element 260) to research portal (col 48, lines 19—26); and selecting an existing research session (col 48, lines 63-67 and col 49 lines 1-11), selecting the session can be done by clicking link), or creating a new research session (col 49, lines 12-36).

18. As per claims 12 and 29, Egger discloses on said user side (col 48, lines 39-42),
retrieving a first data block (fig 4B, col 24, lines 49-51);
receiving data blocks of other users having a predetermined closeness (col 4B, lines 23-67); and
receiving an index of other data blocks relevant to the user's research (col 4B, lines 23-67).

19. As per claims 13 and 30, Egger discloses on a server side, said method further comprises: after the logging-in by the user (Fig 4B, element 260), sending to the user a list of previously created research sessions (fig 4B, col 23-67); and after the retrieving by the user (fig 4B, col 23-67), adding spatial coordinates of the first data block to a collection of vertices to a current research session (col 6, lines 6-25).

20. As per claims 14 and 31, Egger discloses wherein, on said server side, said method further comprises: recalculating areas occupied by the vertices of the current research session (col 6, lines 6-25); and calculating an intersection of the current research session with research sessions created by other users (col 6, lines 6-25).

21. As per claims 15 and 32, on said server side, said method further comprises: determining whether any research sessions intersect (col 6, lines 6-25); and if any research sessions intersect (col 6, lines 6-25), then notifying users that created the intersecting sessions (col 6, lines 6-67).

22. As per claims 16 and 33, on said server side, said method further comprises: sending the users of the intersecting sessions a geometry of the other intersecting sessions (col 6, lines 6-67).

23. As per claims 17 and 35, a method of collaborative network searching, comprising:

tracking a plurality of users' accessing of pages in a network (col 3, lines 24-30 and col 48, lines 13-45); and based on a closeness of at least first and second users (col 48, lines 46-67),

Egger is silent about notifying said first and second users of one another's accessing of said pages. However, Anupam discloses notifying said first and second users of one another's accessing of said pages (fig 1, col 1, lines 46-67 and col 2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Anupam with Egger because it would provide user friendly computerized, web enabled, and an intelligent research tool that emulates human methods of research.

Conclusion

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,078,948 to Podgorny et al.

U.S. Patent 6,629,097 to Keith et al.

U.S. Patent 5,923,845 to Kamiya et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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